

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062591

62

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, KS

SUBJECT: COPYRIGHT - MARCH 18 ARTICLE IN "PUBLISHER'S
WEEKLY"

1. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE FROM ARTICLE APPEARING IN MARCH
18 ISSUE "PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY" ON PAGE 22 BY SUSAN WAGNER,
REPORTER FOR MAGAZINE:

"NEW STEPS TAKEN TO HALT BOOK PIRACY IN FAR EAST.
STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN IN BOTH KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES TO
PREVENT PIRACY OF AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN BOOKS-A
PRACTICE HITHERTO CONDONED OR EVEN ENCOURAGED BY THE GOVERN-
MENTS OF THE TWO FAR EASTERN COUNTRIES.

SPOKESMEN FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS SAID
MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN IN BOTH NATIONS TO BRING RE-
PRINTING UNDER CONTROL AND PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION TO
COPYRIGHT PROPRIETORS. PIRACY HAS BEEN ON THE UPSWING FOR
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SOME TIME IN KOREA AND HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED BY

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER TO PROVIDE LOW-COST BOOKS TO STUDENTS.

IN KOREA, U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MR. ALBERT WERE ABLE TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AMERICAN WORKS WILL RECEIVE PROTECTION OF THE KOREAN COPYRIGHT LAW. UNDER THE LAWS OF THAT COUNTRY, COPYRIGHT PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL AUTHORS ONLY. UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT, KOREAN REPRINTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN REPRINT RIGHT FROM THE COPYRIGHT PROPRIETOR. THE TITLE WILL THEN BE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE REPRINTER, THUS GAINING COPYRIGHT PROTECTION UNDER KOREAN LAW. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST INFRINGERS."

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES BEST TACTIC IS NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE ARTICLE AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT PIRACY IN KOREA AND PHILIPPINES, DEPARTMENT AND LEO ALBERT DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT INACCURATE REPORTING REFLECTED IN THIS ARTICLE, PRIMARILY RELATIVE TO PHILIPPINES. OVERVIEW OF ALBERT TRIP TO PHILIPPINES/KOREA WAS PROVIDED INFORMALLY BY STAFF MEMBER IN WASHINGTON OFFICE OF ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS (AAP). SUSAN WAGNER WAS REQUESTED BY STAFF MEMBER AAP TO CLEAR ARTICLE WITH ALBERT, BUT FAILED TO DO SO. FURTHER, ARTICLE IN NO WAY REFLECTS COMMENTS OR VIEWS BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS OR ALBERT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) IF GOK OFFICIALS REFER TO THIS ARTICLE, EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS POINTS SET FORTH IN PARA. 2. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT IF QUERIES ARE RECEIVED. (B) FOR ASST. COMATT GROSSMAN: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC REPORT BY APRIL 3 IN PREPARATION FOR GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL BOOK AND LIBRARY PROGRAMS ON APRIL 4 IF DIRECTOR KIM HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT ALBERT/KIM MEETING TO MINISTER OF CULTURE AND OUTCOME OF THIS REPORT. PLEASE REPLY ATTN: EB/CBA/BP. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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